

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OPIC-03 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 DHA-02 /107 W

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P R 311645Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3607

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4351

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: RC CONFIRMS TRIUMVIRATE

SUMMARY: FULL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, INCLUDING MODERATES, ON JULY 31 ENDORSED FORMATION OF THREE-MEMBER "DIRECTORATE" CONSISTING OF GENERALS COSTA GOMES, VASCO GONCALVES, AND OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO. RC WILL REMAIN AS ADVISORY BODY AT CALL OF DIRECTORATE. RC MEMBER SOUSA E CASTRO, IN PRESS INTERVIEW JULY 30, MADE STRONG INDICTMENT OF CONTINUED LEFTWARD DRIFT OF AFM AND WARNED AGAINST POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY FROM WITHIN. RC ACTION PLACES FULL STAMP OF AFM LEGITIMACY ON DIRECTORATE. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT CONTINUE. CONFIDENTIAL

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END SUMMARY.

1. TRIUMVIRATE CONFIRMED: FOLLOWING ALL NIGHT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEETING, RC SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO ON MORNING JULY 31 ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING RC DECISIONS:

- DELEGATING RC'S CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS TO DIRECTORATE COMPOSED OF GENERALS COSTA GOMES, VASCO GONCALVES, AND OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO.
- CONFIRMING THAT OTHER RC MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO DISCHARGE CURRENT FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP ON INTERNAL RC COMMITTEES.
- GIVING DIRECTORATE POWER TO CONVOKE FULL RC OR ITS COMMITTEES.

RC "MODERATES," WITH EXCEPTION OF VITOR ALVES WHO IS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT IN KAMPALA, ATTENDED MEETING.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT DELAYED: IN JULY 31 STATEMENT, VASCO LOURENCO SAID THAT FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET COMPLETE AND THAT MEMBERSHIP PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

3. RC MEMBER DISSENTS: RC MEMBER CAPTAIN SOUSA E CASTRO, IN INTERVIEW GIVEN BEFORE RC MEETING APPEARING IN JULY 30 "JORNAL NOVO," ISSUED STINGING CRITICISM OF CONTINUED LEFTWARD MOVEMENT BY AFM. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS COMMENTS INCLUDED:

- "CRISIS OF AUTHORITY" ONCE AGAIN EXISTS WITHIN AFM RANKS. IF AFM ASSEMBLY CAN DISCHARGE RC BY ESTABLISHING TRIUMVIRATE, DOES IT ALSO HAVE POWER TO REVIEW DECISIONS OF TRIUMVIRATE?
- FORMATION OF "TRIUMVIRATE" IS VIOLATION OF EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW; CREATION OF "TRIUMVIRATE" GOES BEYOND POWER OF AFM WHICH IS ADVISORY BODY TO RC.
- REVOLUTION CANNOT BE MADE WITH ONLY URBAN PROLETARIAT; RURAL WORKERS, PETIT BOURGEOISIE, AND SMALL PRODUCERS ARE ALSO NEEDED.
- PARTIES ABLE TO MOBILIZE MASS SUPPORT ARE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY ARMED FORCES.
- OTHER GROUPS WITH LITTLE POPULAR SUPPORT HAVE COME TO DOMINATE IN VARIOUS SECTORS -- INFORMATION, GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY -- AS WELL AS HAVING GAINED STRONG INFLUENCE WITH THE ARMED FORCES.
- ARMED FORCES MUST AVOID HAVING POWER TAKEN FROM WITHIN BY CONSPIRACY.

4. VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT: MORE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
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THE LEFT HAVE BEEN REPORTED:

- IN OPORTO, BRANCH OFFICES OF "REPUBLICA" WERE SACKED;
- IN EVORA, BOMB EXPLODED NEXT DOOR TO RESIDENCE OF PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER.
- IN COSTA DA CAPARICA, MOLATOV COCKTAIL THROWN AT MDP/CDE OFFICES.

5. COMMENT: RC HAS OFFICIALLY PLACED ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL

ON "DIRECTORATE." CAPTAIN SOUSA E CASTRO'S COMMENTS ARE THE STRONGEST AND MOST ARTICULATE INDICTMENT OF STEADY LEFTWARD MOVE OF AFM FROM WITHIN RC. COMING FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WITH IMPECCABLE REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS, HIS COMMENTS CARRY SPECIAL WEIGHT. SIMILAR CONCERNS PROMPTED SOUSA E CASTRO TO REQUEST THE RECENT AFM ARMY ASSEMBLY TO RELIEVE HIM FROM HIS RC RESPONSIBILITIES. HIS COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE BROAD DISCONTENT, EVIDENT ELSEWHERE IN THE DRAMATIC RISE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST COMMUNISTS, IS ALSO GROWING WITHIN THE MILITARY. SOUSA E CASTRO'S REMARKS, THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO AFM ASSEMBLY THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS GETTING AHEAD ON THE PEOPLE, AND THE PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THERE ARE DISSIDENTS AT THE LEVEL OF THE RC ARE IMPORTANT INDICATORS OF THE DIVISIONS AND UNHAPPINESS WITHIN AN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT THAT HAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT A UNIFIED FRONT TO THE WORLD.

6. LONG DELAY IN FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT REFLECTS DIFFICULTIES PRIME MINISTER IS HAVING IN ATTRACTING ANYONE BUT COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FELLOW-TRAVELERS. JORGE SAMPAIO AND JOAO CRAVINHO OF THE EX-MES GROUP HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN NEW CABINET. THEY WOULD HAVE BROUGHT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTELLECTUAL DISTINCTION, MARXIST BUT NON-PCP CREDENTIALS, AND THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE AFM. THEIR DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE SUGGESTS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO SQUANDER THESE ASSETS ON A SHORT-LIVED GOVERNMENT THAT IS EXPECTED NOT ONLY TO FAIL, BUT TO FAIL BADLY.
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